

PATENT
Docket No. JP920030054US1

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request that this supplemental amendment be entered and considered. This amendment is to be filed shortly (within a day or two) after the preceding Amendment. Accordingly, Applicants do not believe that this supplemental amendment should unduly interfere with the preparation of the next Office action. Entry and consideration, if executed by the Examiner, are greatly appreciated.

The claims have been amended by rewriting claim 7 and adding new claims 10-12. Upon entry of this amendment, Claims 1-12 will be pending in the application.

Claim 7

Claim 7 has been amended to correct a 35 U.S.C. §112 ¶2 ambiguity in the claim language. The term "portable computer" had been used and for which antecedent basis had been lacking. As may be appreciated by examining claim 7 as presently amended, other stylistic changes have been made to claim 7 to improve its readability.

New Claims 10-12

Claim 10

Newly introduced Claim 10 is believed to be patentable over the art of record including the Solomon reference (6,367,748), which was used by the Examiner in a previous Office action to reject Applicants' claims. Below, Applicants' present arguments for patentability for newly introduced claim 10.

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Applicants contend that the Solomon reference fails to disclose or suggest at least the following bold highlighted portions of Claim 10:

- 10 . Apparatus comprising:
- a portable body having a keyboard on its top face and having various connectors on its back face;
 - a lid portion having a display, the lid portion provided to said body via a hinge so as to open and close with the display face side of the display facing said keyboard;
 - rubber pads provided at the four corners on the base of said body; and
 - a **fixed** pivot member provided on the base of said body farther to the back face side than two of said rubber pads on the back face side of said body;
- wherein said pivot member serves as a pivot that allows the orientation of said body to be changed by coming into contact with the placement plane when the front end portion of said body placed on the placement plane is lifted.

As highlighted above, Solomon fails to disclose a fixed member and, to the contrary, teaches a rotating member. Thus, Applicants' claimed invention is not anticipated under 35 U.S.C. § 102 by Solomon since Solomon does not meet each and every limitation of Applicants' claim. Under 35 U.S.C. § 103, Solomon cannot properly be used in an obviousness rejection because Solomon teaches away from a fixed design by prescribing a rotational design. Applicants' disclosure identifies rotational designs as problematic and presents a fixed design as the solution since rotational designs don't pivot well.

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Applicants see the invention defined by claim 10 as useful, novel, and unobvious over Solomon and, therefore, patentable over Solomon.

Support for a fixed pivot member is found in at least the claims as originally filed (original claim 4); in the Specification at page 10, line 7 and also page 11, lines 21-22; and in each of the drawings which make reference to item 4.

Claims 11 and 12

These claims are believed to be in condition for allowance due to their dependence on claim 10 which is believed to be allowable. In addition, these claims add patentably distinct features for which Applicants seek to obtain patent protection of varying scope.

Request to Proceed to Allowance

Applicants respectfully request that this supplemental response be considered, entered, and that a timely notice of allowance be issued.

The Examiner is urged to call the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number if, in the Examiner's opinion, such a phone conference would expedite or aid in the prosecution of this application.

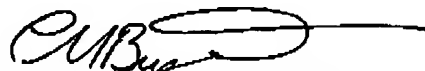
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Respectfully Submitted,



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